

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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R 030701Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3359

UNCLAS BELGRADE 3407

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP YO

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: COPPER MINES - KENNECOTT VISIT

REF: A) STATE 129864 B) STATE 162150

1. BUCIM, RUDNIK ZA BAKAR, IS INDEPENDENT, SELF-MANAGED, SOCIALLY-OWNED ENTERPRISE FORMED TO MINE AND CONCENTRATE ORES FROM COPPER DEPOSITS NEAR RADOVIS IN YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA. MAIN OFFICES OF BUCIM ARE IN RADOVIS AND BRANCH OFFICES IN SKOPJE.

2. ORE DEPOSITS ARE LOCATED NEAR RADOVIS, ABOUT SIXTY MILES EAST-SOUTHEAST OF SKOPJE. DEPOSITS CONTAIN AN ESTIMATED SEVENTY MILLION TONS OF ORE WITH .43 PERCENT COPPER CONTENT. FLOTATION PLANT TO BE CONSTRUCTED NEAR MINES IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS OF CONCENTRATE WITH TWENTY FIVE PERCENT COPPER CONTENT.

3. RTB BOR IS EUROPE'S LARGEST AND YUGOSLAVIA'S ONLY COPPER PRODUCER. BOR WILL PROCESS CONCENTRATE FROM BUCIM INTO ELECTROLYTIC COPPER. BOR AND BUCIM ALSO RELATED BY MEMBERSHIP IN JUGOBAKAR, RECENTLY FORMED YUGOSLAV ASSOCIATION FOR PRODUCTION, FABRICATION AND TRADE IN COPPER AND COPPER-BASED PRODUCTS. JUGOBAKAR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC COORDINATION IN AREA OF COPPER.

4. BUCIM RECENTLY SIGNED ENGINEERING CONTRACTS WITH ARTHUR G. MCKEE AND COMPANY. KENNECOTT MAY WISH TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM MCKEE. THEIR ADDRESS IS 2855 CAMPUS DRIVE, SAN MATEO, CALIF. 94403, TELEPHONE (415) 753-3373, TELEX 34-9398,

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CABLE WKECO. REFER TO FILE NO. 742.

5. BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS, AND START OF YUGOSLAV VACATION SEASONS, CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE IS JULY 14: MEETINGS WITH JUGOBAKAR, JUGOTEHNA, JUGOMETAL, AND EMBASSY COMMERCIAL ATTACHE WILLIAM J. WALLER IN BELGRADE. JULY 15: MEETINGS WITH RTB BOR AT BOR. JULY 16/17: MEETINGS WITH BUCIM AT RADOVIS. SILBERMAN

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